

THE
DECLARATION

OF THE
Lords and Commons

Assembled at *Westminster*;

PRESENTED TO THEIR

HIGHNESSES

THE
Prince and Princess of ORANGE,

At *White-Hall* the 12th. of February, 1688.

WHEREAS the late King *James* the Second,
by the assistance of divers Evil Counsellors,
Judges, and Ministers Employed by him, did
endeavour to Subvert and Exterminate the Pro-
testant Religion, and the Laws and Liber-
ties of this Kingdom,

By Assuming and Exercising a Power of Dispensing with, and
Suspending of Laws, and the Execution of Laws without Con-
sent of Parliament.

By Committing and prosecuting divers worthy Prelates for
humbly petitioning to be excused from concurring to the said
assumed power.

By issuing and causing to be executed a Commission under
the Great Seal for Erecting a Court called the Court of Com-
missioners for Ecclesiastical Causes.

By Levying Money for and to the use of the Crown, by
pretence of prerogative, for other time and in other manner
than the same was granted by Parliament.

By raising and keeping a standing Army within this King-
dom in time of peace, without consent of Parliament, and Quar-
tering Souldiers contrary to Law.

By causing several good Subjects being Protestants, to be dis-
armed, at the same time when Papists were both Armed and Im-
ployed contrary to Law.

By Violating the freedom of Election of Members to serve
in Parliament.

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By prosecutions in the Court of Kings-Bench for Matters and Causes Cognizable only in Parliament, and by divers other Arbitrary and Illegal Courses.

And whereas of late years Partial, Corrupt, and Unqualified Persons have been returned and served on Juries in Tryals, and particularly divers Jurors in Tryals for High Treason which were not Free-Holders.

And excessive Bail hath been required of persons committed in Criminal Cases, to elude the benefit of the Laws made for the Liberty of the Subject.

And excessive Fines hath been imposed, and Illegal and Cruel punishments inflicted.

And several Grants and Promises made of Fines and Forfeitures before any Conviction or Judgment against the Persons upon whom the same were to be Levied.

All which are utterly and directly contrary to the known Laws and Statutes and Freedom of this Realm. And whereas the said late King James the Second having abdicated the Government, and the Throne being thereby vacant.

His Highness the Prince of Orange, (whom it hath pleased Almighty God to make the Glorious Instrument of delivering this Kingdom from Popery and Arbitrary Power) did by the Advice of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and divers Principal persons of the Commons, cause Letters to be written to the Lords Spiritual and Temporal being Protestants, and other Letters to the several Counties, Cities, Universities, Boroughs and Cinque Ports, for the choosing of such persons to represent them as were of right to be sent to Parliament, to Meet and Sit at Westminster upon the 22^d. day of January in this year 1688, in Order to such an Establishment, as that their Religion, Laws and Liberties might not again be in danger of being Subverted.

Upon which Letters, Elections have been accordingly made.

And thereupon the said Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and the Commons pursuant to their respective Letters and Elections, being now Assembled in a full and free Representative of this Nation, taking into their most serious Consideration the best means for attaining the ends aforesaid,

Do in the first place, as their Ancestors in like Cases have usually done, for the vindicating and asserting their Ancient Rights and Liberties, declare,

That the pretended Power of suspending of Laws, or the Execution of Laws by Regal Authority, without Consent of Parliament, is Illegal.

That the pretended Power of dispensing with Laws, or the Execution of Laws by Regal Authority, as it has been assumed and exercised of late, is Illegal.

That the Commission for Erecting the late Court of Commissioners, for Ecclesiastical Causes, and all other Commissions and Courts of like nature are Illegal and Pernicious.

That

That Levying of Money for, or to the use of, the Crown, by
 pretence of Prerogative, without Grant of Parliament, or for
 longer time, or in other manner than the same is, or shall be
 Granted, is illegal.

That it is the Right of the Subject to Petition the King; and
 all Comittments and Prosecutions for such Petitioning, are il-
 legal.

That the Raising or Keeping a Standing Army within the
 Kingdom in time of Peace, unless it be with Consent of Parlia-
 ment, is against Law.

That the Subjects which are Protestants, may have Arms
 for their Defence suitable to their Condition, and as allowed by
 Law.

That Election of Members of Parliament ought to be free.
 That the Freedome of Speech and Debates, or Proceedings
 in Parliament ought not to be Impeached or Questioned in
 any Court or place out of Parliament.

That Excessive Bail ought not to be required; or excessive
 Fines Imposed; nor cruel and unusual Punishments inflicted.

That Jurors ought to be duly Impanelled and Returned,
 and Jurors which pass upon Men in Tryals for High Treason,
 ought to be Freeholders.

That all Grants and Promises of Fines and Forfeitures of
 particular Persons before Conviction, are illegal and void.

And that for Redress of all Grievances, and for the
 amending, strengthening and preserving of the Laws, Parlia-
 ments ought to be held frequently.

And they do Claim Demand, and Insist upon all and sin-
 gular, the Privileges as their undoubted Right and Liberty.

And that no Declarations, Judgments, Doings or Proceedings to
 the prejudice of the People in any of the said Premises ought
 in any wise to be drawn hereafter into consequence or example.

To which Demand of their Rights, they are particularly
 encouraged by the Declaration of his Highness the Prince of Orange
 as being the only means for obtaining a full Redress and Remedy
 therein.

Having therefore an intire Confidence that his said Highness
 the P. of O. will perfect the Deliverance so far advanced by him,
 and will still preserve them from the violation of their Rights
 which they have here asserted, and from all other Attempts upon
 their Religion, Laws, and Liberties.

The said Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons
 Assembled at *Westminster*, Do Resolve,

That *William* and *Mary* Prince and Princess of *Orange* be,
 and be Declared King and Queen of *England*, *France*, and
Ireland, and the Dominions thereto belonging. To hold the
 Crown and Royal Dignity of the said Kingdoms and Domini-
 ons, to them the said Prince and Princess during their Lives,
 and the Life of the Survivor of them. And that the sole and full

full Exercise of the Royal Power, be only in and Exercised by him the said Prince of Orange, in the name of the said Prince and Princess during their Joynt Lives: And after their Deceases, the said Crown and Royal Dignity of the said Kingdoms and Dominions, to be to the Heirs of the Body of the said Princess. And for default of such Issue, to the Princess Anne of Denmark, and the Heirs of her Body. And for default of such Issue, to the Heirs of the Body of the said Prince of Orange.

And they do pray the said Prince and Princess of Orange, do accept the same accordingly.

And that the Oaths hereafter mentioned, be taken by all Persons of whom the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy might be required by Law, instead of them, and that the said Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy may be abrogated.

I A. B. Do sincerely Promise and Swear, that I will be Faithful and bear true Allegiance to their Majesties King William and Queen Mary. So help me God, &c.

I A. B. Do swear, That I do from my Heart Abhor, Detest and Abjure, as Unlawful, and Heretical, this Damnable Doctrine and Position, That Foreign Ecclesiastical or Deposed by the Pope or any Authority of the See of Rome, may be Deposed or Murdered by the Subjects or any other whatsoever: And I do Declare, that no Foreign Prince, Person, Prelate, State or Potentate, hath or ought to have any Jurisdiction, Power, Superiority, Prebeminence, or Authority Ecclesiastical or Spiritual within this Realm. So help me God, &c.

It is Ordered by the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons now Assembled at Westminster, That this Declaration be Engrossed in Parchment, Enrolled among the Rolls of Parliament, and Recorded in Chancery.

Printed in the Year 1689.

That William and Mary Prince and Princess of Orange be and be acknowledged King and Queen of Great Britain, France, and the Dominions thereto belonging: To hold the Crown and Royal Dignity of the said Kingdoms and Dominions to them the said Prince and Princess during their Lives, and the Life of the survivor of them: And after the sole and full